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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

To select a qualified responsible party for the implementation of “Awareness raising among refugee and migrant women on how to access justice services” under the Turkey component of the Regional Programme “Ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”

Purpose: Selection of qualified responsible party for the Programme

Location: Turkey

Duration: February 2018 – March 2019 (tentatively)

Contract Type: Project Cooperation Agreement

Deadline for submissions:

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is inviting women’s civil society organizations and organizations working on gender equality and ending violence against women to undertake: Awareness raising among refugee and migrant women on how to access justice services

Terms of Reference

I. Background

The programme *“Implementing norms, changing minds”* (February 2017- January 2020) aims at ending gender-based discrimination and violence against women, with a focus on the most disadvantaged groups of women, in the Western Balkans – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo¹, and Serbia – and Turkey.

“Implementing norms, changing minds” is anchored in the normative frameworks of the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW) and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). The programme is funded by the European Commission (EC) within the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II, the Programme is aligned with the European Union (EU) accession standards to achieve equality between women and men.

Policy measures aimed to tackle multiple gender equality barriers are underpinned by various laws and institutional mechanisms, yet more effort is needed for transformation of persistent patriarchal attitudes. These challenges are persistent largely due to deep-seated entrenchment of gender stereotypes which create barriers to achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment. To push for the actual implementation of existing and new normative frameworks and the provision of women-focused services to women and girls, efforts must be exerted on the demand side, at the individual, community and societal levels by, inter alia, investing in reverting harmful gender stereotypes, and challenging social acceptance of violence against women and girls. Acknowledging the structural inequalities that lie at the intersection of gender with factors such as migration and displacement, the programme places a strong focus on tackling multiple discriminations where gender aspects are involved.

Turkey is hosting more than 2.99 million Syrian refugees, of which 46.8 percent are women.² Only 10% of them live in camps, whereas 90% are mainly in urban centres, and the majority live in the impoverished southeast along the Syrian border. The government has taken the lead in providing assistance since 2011, and the Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (AFAD) runs 22 camps nationwide. Noting the continued instability in Syria and the region, the TURKEY Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2017-2018³ 3RP has a significantly increased focus on resilience programming, alongside a continued support for humanitarian needs of refugees. In addition, the 3RP defines children and women refugees as at risk with urgent protection needs, and it promotes gender equality within its sectorial approach, mainly under livelihoods and protection sectors.

Over the past years, Turkish non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community based organizations (CBOs), and Syrians themselves have organized themselves to meet the urgent needs of refugees. However, their assistance and protection efforts have rarely been gender responsive and designed based on the needs and inputs of refugee women only. Only in 2016 did many of

¹ All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this document shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

² According to UNHCR data, this number is 2.99 million as of 27 April 2017, and 46.8% are female.

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=224>

³ <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=12787>

Turkey's well-established and networked women's organizations start to engage more actively in refugee issues and began to consider ways to support peaceful co-existence and cohesion. Syrian women, and NGOs that support them, have had few opportunities to engage with service providers, local authorities and UN agencies to affect the design and delivery of assistance. Capacity building and networking of Syrian and Turkish NGOs and CBOs are needed to ensure increased leadership and engagement of displaced women in the design and delivery of relief and support to resilience.⁴ Additionally, more needs to be done to reduce stigma, prejudices and misinformation about Syrian refugee women.

UN Women's ongoing and upcoming response focuses on: 1) service delivery to improve refugee women's participation in decision-making mechanisms while helping duty bearers transform their gender-neutral service delivery approach to a gender-sensitive one; 2) support women and girls to develop more resilient capacities and networks to help them overcome social, structural and contextual barriers and integrate into host communities anywhere; and 3) support the organization of dialogue meetings as well as social and cultural events between Syrian women and women from the host community in women-only centres, in other partner centres and at the national level, with an aim to ensure that women and women's CSOs can actively and constructively participate in responses related to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and refugee right protection.

II. Objective of the Call

The commitments made through the Istanbul Convention are seen as an opportunity for progress by many actors in the region, notably in Turkey. The Convention provides a clear road map and an operational recipe for implementation, and requires an active civil society. Furthermore, it recognizes the greater risk faced by groups of women who are subject to intersectional discrimination (e.g. refugee and migrant women, women from ethnic minorities, etc.) and calls for effective cooperation of state agencies with CSOs.

A major challenge in the protection of the rights of women is the low awareness regarding laws and policies, both amongst enforcement agencies and the general population. The European Parliament (EP) resolution (2012/2255(INI)) notes as well that the population is not fully aware of the existing legislation and policies to promote gender equality and women's rights, and that such awareness rarely reaches the vulnerable or marginalized members of society. In this regard, the EP underlines the importance of awareness-raising campaigns in the fight against stereotypes, discrimination (including gender-based) and domestic violence, and in the fight for gender equality in general.

This is particularly true for women from minorities and disadvantaged groups, lacking knowledge about their rights and services available to them, which leads to low levels of assertiveness in claiming their rights. The 2007 General Assembly resolution on the Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women calls on states to give regard to women who need special attention in the development of policies to address violence, such as women belonging to minority groups, including those based on ethnicity, and migrant women.⁵

⁴ IMC, UNHCR, Swiss Confederation. December 2015. "Mapping and needs assessment of NGOs working with Syrian refugees in Turkey".

⁵ United Nations General Assembly (2007) Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women, A/RES/61/145, art 8(f).

The Call for Proposals is looking for proposals to implement the raise awareness among refugee and migrant women on how to access justice services.

III. Scope of the Proposals

It is expected that the proposals will consider the following:

- Design and implementation of innovative cutting-edge campaigns to inform refugee women about their rights and justice services available to them,
- Improvement of information systems for refugee women to seize opportunities to access justice,
- Ensuring that women, and in particular Syrian refugee women, are informed about local and national referral mechanisms for victims of sexual and gender-based violence and how to gain access to the formal justice mechanism, and
- Ensuring the availability of female interpreters and female intercultural mediators to inform refugee women of available justice services for survivors of violence.

V. Duration of project

February 2018 – March 2019 (tentatively)

VI. Budget Request

The proposed intervention size and budget request will be as follows:

Proposals must fall between a minimum indicative amount of EUR 40.000 and a maximum amount of EUR 60.000. Budget proposals should be submitted in Euros. All currency exchanges will be calculated using the UN Operational Exchange Rate as per the deadline of submission of proposal.

Only one grant will be awarded per organization. A single CSO cannot receive more than one grant during the lifetime of the programme “Implementing Minds, Changing Norms”,

VII. Institutional Arrangement

The selected Organization(s) will sign a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with UN Women. A competitive selection process will take place to identify the potential Responsible Party. The CSO will be selected only if it has proven capacity to deliver the proposed activity. The CSO’s capacity will be assessed by UN Women as per UN Women’s policies, rules and regulations.

VIII. Reporting

The selected partner(s) will be the principal responsible party(ies), but will work closely with UN Women during programme implementation. The partner(s) will provide regular narrative and financial reports in line with UN Women guidelines and requirements.

All knowledge products and communications materials that would be produced under this agreement must acknowledge the support and seek approval of UN Women. Furthermore, they should be in line with the EU Communication and Visibility tools and the EU-UN joint visibility guidelines.